



Program Approval Form

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

Action Requested:

Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors)

Inactivate Existing

Modify Existing (check all that apply)

Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors)

Concentration (Choose one): Add Delete Modify

Degree Requirements

Admission Standards/ Application Requirements

Other Changes: _____

Type (Check one):

B.A. B.S. Minor

M.A. M.S. M.Ed.

Ph.D.

Undergraduate Certificate*

Graduate Certificate*

Other:

College/School: **Department:**

Submitted by: **Ext:** **Email:**

Effective Term: Fall **Please note:** For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

Justification: (attach separate document if necessary)

We are eliminating the required course in research ethics in order to (1) incorporate research ethics in the research methods class, and (2) reduce the required credit hours to allow for additional elective credits

Program Title: (Required)

Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/dept.

Concentration(s):

Admissions Standards / Application Requirements:

(Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)

Degree Requirements:

Consult University Catalog for models, attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications

Courses offered via distance: (if applicable)

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:

Existing	New/Modified
Interdisciplinary Neuroscience PhD program	Interdisciplinary Neuroscience PhD program
1. Neur 604 is required 2. Electives: 18 credits 3. BINF 702 - Research Methods counts as a core science requirement, as a statistics alternative	1. Neur 604 is no longer required 2. Electives: 21 credits, up to 12 credits of 996 allowed 3. Binf 702 is not listed as it is not a statistics alternative

*For Certificates Only: Indicate whether students are able to pursue on a Full-time basis Part-time basis

Approval Signatures

Kim L. Blackwell _____

Department Date College/School Date Provost's Office Date
Interdisciplinary Council Use Only

If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date
Psychology			
Biology			

For Graduate Programs Only

Graduate Council Member _____ Provost Office _____ Graduate Council Approval Date _____

Explanation of proposed modification

1. The main change is elimination of Neur 604: research ethics, taught as a separate course. We are eliminating the required course in research ethics in order to (1) incorporate research ethics in the research methods class, and (2) reduce the required credit hours to allow for additional elective credits. We believe that incorporating ethics into the research methods class will allow this to be taught in a fashion more relevant to the students research.
2. By eliminating this core course, we allow more electives for the students. The neuroscience faculty feel very strongly that many of these should be allowed to be Neur 996, so that the Neuroscience PhD is more similar to research intensive neuroscience PhD programs across the country. Most of our PhD students go on to post-doctoral positions, and one of the main criteria used to hire a post-doc is the quality of their research publications. Furthermore, a breadth of research electives does not help neuroscience PhD students obtain positions. Because we do not have the depth of electives that other programs offer, some of our students have difficulty finding relevant electives in their concentration. Instead, they elect to do directed readings and learn the additional material in one-on-one meetings with the professor.
3. The removal of Binf 702 as a core statistic class is an administrative fix. This course was never listed as a statistic class for our students in earlier version of the catalog or website. We are not sure why it appeared in the most recent website. We have recently been informed that this class is going to change from a research methods to a data analysis course. Once that happens we will consider adding this course back to one of the allowed statistic classes for our students.

Current curriculum on website

[NEUR 604 - Ethics in Scientific Research](#)

[NEUR 702 - Research Methods](#)

one statistics course chosen from the following:

[STAT 535 - Analysis of Experimental Data](#)

[Using SPSS](#)

[PSYC 611 - Advanced Statistics](#)

[STAT 544 - Applied Probability](#)

[STAT 554 - Applied Statistics](#)

[BINF 702 - Research Methods](#)

[ECE 528 - Introduction to Random Processes
in Electrical and Computer Engineering](#)

[NEUR 601 - Developmental Neuroscience](#)

[NEUR 602 - Cellular Neuroscience](#)

[NEUR 603 - Mammalian Neuroanatomy](#)

[NEUR 701 - Neurophysiology Laboratory](#)

taken three times:

[NEUR 703 - Laboratory Rotation and
Readings](#)

18 credits of electives

Proposed curriculum

[NEUR 702 - Research Methods](#)

one statistics course chosen from the following:

[STAT 535 - Analysis of Experimental Data
Using SPSS](#)

[PSYC 611 - Advanced Statistics](#)

[STAT 544 - Applied Probability](#)

[STAT 554 - Applied Statistics](#)

[ECE 528 - Introduction to Random Processes
in Electrical and Computer Engineering](#)

[NEUR 601 - Developmental Neuroscience](#)

[NEUR 602 - Cellular Neuroscience](#)

[NEUR 603 - Mammalian Neuroanatomy](#)

[NEUR 701 - Neurophysiology Laboratory](#)

taken three times:

[NEUR 703 - Laboratory Rotation and
Readings](#)

21 credits of electives